

City of Fitchburg Disability Commission Meeting

Date	April 13, 2016
Location	Library Garden Room

Commission Members:

Name	Present	Absent	Remote
Jeffrey Wolfgang	X		
Bill Tolos	X		
Doris Matte	X		
Mary Ann Guichard	X		
Sheela Tallamraju		X	
Marshal Haneisen		X	
Sharon Tardiff	X		

Guest: Amy LeBlanc, Gloria Spadaro

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

Item 1: **Minutes** from the March 2016 meeting were read and accepted unanimously.

Item 2: **Announcements, Notices, Events** – Bill Tolos announced the New England Amputees Association Annual Walk-a-thon which will be held at the Orchard Hill Athletic Club on April 24th.

Item 3: **Commission Structure** – this item was tabled, as Marci Haneisen and Sheela Tallamraju were not present.

Item 4: **Accessible Playgrounds and Equipment** – Doris Matte mentioned an article that was in the Sentinel about the group that is attempting to raise money to build an accessible playground in Fitchburg. They have received approval to install the playground at Coolidge Park. They have reviewed play equipment options from three manufacturers and settled on one. They still have a lot of fundraising to go in order to be able to build the park.

Item 5: **Housing/Wallace Towers** – Doris spoke to the housing authority. They intend to build an accessible pathway out to the patio so that disabled residents can access this outdoor space. Jeff has calls into the Fire Department regarding how disabled residents would be evacuated from the upper floors in the event of a fire. He has not heard back. His research shows that the ladder truck only reaches 102 feet.

Item 6: **New Business** – Resident Gloria Spadaro attended the meeting to raise her concerns about the safety for pedestrians at the intersection of Main, Prospect, Mechanic at the Upper

Common. Unfortunately, the biggest concerns appear to be on private property. Mary Ann Guichard, Bill Tolos and Jeff Wolfgang will ask to meet with DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso to discuss the issue and possible solutions. A motion was made to allow this meeting. The motion passed unanimously

Item 7: **Education Subcommittee/SPED** – Bill Tolos reported that the subcommittee's focus continues to be working with the schools on organizing their participation in the Disability Awareness Month activities.

Item 8: **Disability Awareness Event** – The group discussed that the response has been overwhelmingly positive from providers who want tables at the event. Focus now needs to be on attracting attendees. Bill Tolos believes information will be sent home with students. We also need to make sure all the details are reviewed and finalized for the day of the event.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for May 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the library Garden Room.